

## Two Flights of *Scaptolenus* (Coleoptera: Cebrionidae)<sup>1</sup>

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My first experience with a flight of *Scaptolenus* was at Puerto de la Angostura, 47 km. S. of Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, a locality at the edge of a small plateau covered by an old lava flow and shown on the map as at ca. 500 m elevation. W. L. Nutting and I had selected a camp site next to the highway, near a small valley with fairly lush scrub vegetation, on May 25, 1948. We set up a funnel light trap in the valley, using a Coleman gasoline pressure lantern as the light source. A heavy rain started soon after we had set up our tent, and kept up well into the evening. It rained so hard that we



Figure 1. *Scaptolenus fuscipennis* Fall, female.

didn't check the light trap before retiring. Several *Scaptolenus* males found their way into our tent in the evening, apparently attracted to our lantern. The trap lantern was still burning at dawn, and the killing jar and bottom of the funnel were packed with *Scaptolenus* males. Specimens of the two species in the trap have been identified by E. C. Becker as *S. mouffleti* Chevrolat and *S. sp.*, the latter smaller and more rufous, and by far the more abundant. We could not find any females in the area. A local resident informed us that it had not rained for seven months previous to our visit.

I have had one other experience since, with *S. fuscipennis* Fall. This flight was also associated with heavy rain. I had taken my family to Parker Canyon Lake, on the west side of the Huachuca Mts., Cochise Co., Arizona, at ca. 5500<sup>1</sup> elevation, on July 17, 1966. The lake is man-made and a favorite fishing location. We arrived at about 12:30 P.M., just in time for a rainstorm, which soon became torrential. When the storm had passed, we found several *Scaptolenus* males floating on puddles in the picnic area.

The sky remained overcast all afternoon. About twenty more males were taken or seen in flight on the slope on which the picnic area has been constructed, in an area of scattered oak trees, a few shrubs, and a moderately sparse cover of grass and herbaceous vegetation. Many more males were found in the water at the edge of the lake. Most of these were still alive, and many had crawled out onto plant stems. At about 3:00 P.M. a cluster of males was found on the ground and a female in the center of the cluster. A search of at least an hour by five people turned up one more cluster and female. This female was in a clump of grass, and seemed to be at the entrance to a short hole. By 4:30 P.M. there were no more males flying. In all, 121 males and two females were taken.

There had apparently been one or two previous rains at this locality during the start of the monsoon season, but I have been unable to obtain exact records.

<sup>1</sup>University of Arizona, Agricultural Experiment Station Journal Article no. 1376.



Several dead males found in the lake may have been left over from previous rains and flights.

The female figured was photographed alive in the laboratory. The two females are very similar to each other, ca. 13.5 mm long from the front of the head, behind the mandibles, to the tips of the elytra. The wings of these females are approximately 8.0 mm long and the elytra 9.5. The wings are obviously smaller than those of the male, because the hind margins don't quite reach the midline in repose. The wings of the males are slightly longer than the elytra, and overlap almost to the anterior edge of the opposite wing in repose. The males are quite uniform, varying from ca. 14.0 to 16.5 mm from front of head minus mandibles to tips of elytra.

### A New Synonym of *Metamasius anceps* Gyllenhal (Curculionidae, Rhynchophorinae)

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While looking for other material in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, I came across the type of one of Blanchard's species, *Sphenophorus rubro-tesselatus*, described in 1846 from D'Orbigny's voyage (1846, p. 204). The locality given is the province of Chiquitos, in the state of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and the type is labeled "Museum Paris Guarayos D'Orbigny, 1834," Guarayos being in Chiquitos, east of the city of Santa Cruz. This specimen is at once recognizable as conspecific with *Metamasius anceps* (Gyllenhal), 1838, new synonymy. There is no mistaking *anceps* as it is the only member of the genus that has the scutellum strongly emarginate (bilobed) in front. *M. bilobus* Hustache is also a synonym (Vaurie, 1966). Gyllenhal, unfortunately, did not stress the scutellum, saying merely that it was "oblongo-triangularre," but I have seen his type and the scutellum is distinctly emarginate.

*Sphenophorus rubro-tesselatus* appears in the Junk catalogue (Csiki, 1936) as a variety of *Calendra* [now *Sphenophorus*] *cincticollis* Gyllenhal, and *anceps* as a synonym, with a question mark, of *Rhodobaenus tredecim-punctatus* Illiger, an entirely different species. The name *anceps* does not appear at all in Blackwelder (1947), probably because the type locality is "America septentrionalis," instead of "australis" or "meridionalis." The species occurs in South America from Colombia south to Bolivia.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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